



Pretest, Nebraska Style or... "The Pretest from Hell"

Submitted By: Elaine Sawtell

Who hasn't heard my lecture ad nauseum on the importance of a VALID pretest? Who hasn't had a perfect performance from your dog in the back yard only to get to a trial and have your dog say "Huh"? Who hasn't said, "But he always does it perfectly at home!"?

With that in mind, Evaluator Ann Wichmann and myself set out to create testing conditions as near as possible to reality - unfamiliar locations and victims, even a brand new, never used, unstable rubble pile, thanks to the efforts of Type II Handler Monica Barger. Only the agility element was conducted where the testing teams had trained, and a new configuration was created for all obstacles.

Of course, we couldn't duplicate a real deployment. No 4 to 5 hour wait to climb on a bus and ride 600 miles. But Handler Eric Jones did his best to simulate that stress by having two flat tires, one on each car, and no crate for Ren to rest in. (We all know how sensitive those Labs are!) Could it be that the few minutes Ren spent in Ditto's crate before the test imparted just the inspiration he needed??



Or maybe it was the two hours he spent locked in the boxcar waiting to do the agility. Did Ren use that time listening to the theme from Rocky as we know that other chocolate Lab on our team does??

When Ren finally emerged from his prison, he whipped through the agility course in four minutes and hurried off for a two-hour demo where he sat in the sun and was climbed on by small children, further simulating an actual deployment - the inevitable FEMA-sponsored "Media Event." (Hey, maybe this element should be included in the next revision of the test!)

The sun was high, along with the humidity and the temperature, when we regathered at our new found rubble pile, roughly twice the size of a regulation Type II pile. After a flawless interview, executed with zero errors by the human half of the team, Ren was off to rescue two stranded tourists from Missouri, a feat he accomplished in nine minutes.

We can only wonder what awaits this duo in Salt Lake City!

NE-TF1 Canine Bulletin On-Line

The NE-TF1 *Canine Bulletin* can now be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/fire/index.htm>. under Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. In an effort to reduce mailing costs and you are able to receive the monthly issue of the *Canine Bulletin* and read it on the internet, please email Julie at: jmarget@ci.lincoln.ne.us.



Canine
Bulletin



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K-9 Training in Springfield - Come on Down!!

Submitted By: Elaine Sawtell

When: Saturday, September 4, 1 p.m. to Monday, September 6, Labor Day

Where: Springfield, MO, The Queen City of the Ozarks, home of the best rubble pile in Missouri, Bass Pro, Steak N Shake (the southern version of King's).

Why: To train not complain, visit, socialize, train, tour Deborah's wine cellar, train, get Harry Hoffert's (aka Kenny Rogers) autograph, train, discuss the virtues or lack thereof, of Labs, train, pick on Hershel (whether he comes or not), train, and, of course, do what we do best.....EAT!!

Who: All NETF-1 canine teams....oh, heck, let's invite the whole task force!

Hosted by: Ditto, Chip, One Sock, aka One Eye, aka One Foot...

Accommodations: You are welcome to stay at Ditto's house or One Sock's house. Be advised you will be living under DEPLOYMENT conditions. Bring your sleeping bag, towels, etc. Ditto requires all dogs come with crates... Motels are available too.

Agenda: We will train in all elements in deference to the weather. If it's hot, we'll train in the early morning and evening. If it's not, we'll train in the daytime. SOMEHOW we WILL work in a barbecue and a trip to Bass Pro. PLEASE R.S.V.P Ditto by September 1st. She has to mentally prepare for this invasion!

Training

Submitted By: Steven Dolezal

In October we are planning a canine training weekend with dogs from all over the US coming. The dates are not set yet but will either be October 22-24 or October 29-31. Please watch the September Canine Bulletin for the dates!

FEMA Website

The FEMA web site now has online the revised canine evaluation criteria for Type I and Type II canine. In addition, they have also added the criteria for evaluators. You can check this out at:
<http://www.csst.org/fema/>.

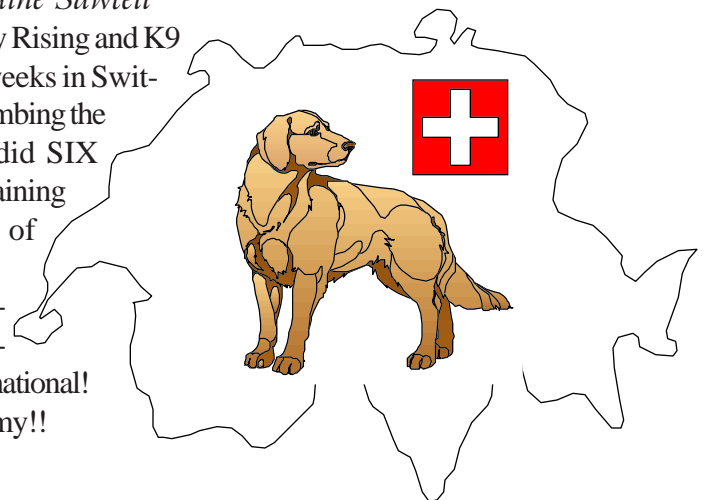
Amy And Louie in Switzerland

Submitted By: Elaine Sawtell

Type I Handler Amy Rising and K9

Louie spent three weeks in Switzerland. Besides climbing the Matterhorn, they did SIX DAYS of disaster training with the pioneers of disaster search.

Nebraska's reputation for "hot" disaster dogs is now international! Congratulations, Amy!!



USAR K-9 Training Seminar

By: Kakie More, National Tracking & Cadaver Recovery, Inc., Florida Search & Rescue K-9 Association

Please visit our site for some dynamic hands on training seminars: <http://home1.gte.net/kakie/seminars.html>

The seminars listed are open to all; either paid or non paid assets. Of course; patrol, narcotics and explosives would be limited to law enforcement personnel only. Please contact Billy L. Smith, Sr., CEO for information on those types of instruction.

There are several of us deep south volunteer SAR, non paid asset types, (as well as paid) heading for the Canadian Seminar and looking forward to sharing expertise and knowledge with our far north neighbors we are hoping you will join us for a great week of work. We are already aware of several across the county who are attending and we are just as excited

about working with don't know any yet. Yes, he is come to

them. As Billy has always said; we stranger, just friends we have not met a crusty individual but one we all love and learn a lot from. We all have our own personalities.

Escambia Search and Rescue in the Panhandle of Florida is graciously hosting a seminar in November with a lot of cost cutting advantages. Kerr County sheriff's Office in Texas is also hosing a seminar during the same time period. I have been in both areas and they have fantastic sites for working K-9's. If any of you wish to camp rather than motel; please contact the coordinators and they can hook you up with areas. Everyone is more than willing to assist. It is just the way of people associated with Law Enforcement Training Specialists.



Web Site Redesigned

Submitted By: Rex Strickland, VA-TF1

The Virginia Task Force - 1 has finally revamped their site with a whole new look with interactive and reference tools. It has been a long time in development and testing phases, so we are eager to invite you to take a look.

Let them know about your comments and ideas. The purpose of the VATF-1 site is to not only pass on information to our members, but to the USAR community as well. The site is designed to be fully functional for pre-deployment and deployment situations. Sort of a one stop shop. They are still in the early stages, so please be patient. It is literally growing every day! Any ideas that they get, will be explore to the fullest and implemented if possible.



Submission of Items for the "Canine Bulletin"...

Please mail submissions to:

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